the situation of most of the cities and villages in the country is deteriorating, barring a few exceptions; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has been implementing several urban development schemes like Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) which is in operation since 1979-80, Infrastructure Development in Mega cities, accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP), Low cost sanitation Scheme for Liberation of Scavengers (LCS), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Slum Development Programme (NSDP), Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), The Ministry of Rural Development has also been implementing schemes for employment generation, poverty alleviation, watershed development, habitat development, drinking water supply, sanitation and rural connectivity in the rural areas of the country to improve the quality of life in villages. The increased demands for infrastructure services on account of increasing population are met through augmentation of such services.

Monitoring of ship traffic

*96. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the proposed state-of-the-art system to monitor ship traffic and the names of ports where it is proposed to be installed;

(b) the manner in which the safety of ships in navigation would be monitored, besides control of incoming and outgoing ships from the ports; and

(c) the ultra-modern systems that have been developed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) to (c) The term state-of-the-art system to monitor ship traffic is

usually applied to the system that monitors ship traffic to ensure safe navigation of ships at Port channels. Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) is a radar surveillance system broadly intended for providing effective guidance to pilotage of incoming and outgoing vessels. The radar surveillance system has a communication network with centers of Port activities controlling traffic movement. The system is designed to identify a medium-sized vessel, to compute the positional fixings along the shipping channel, to track all targets, mobile and stationary, which are automatically projected in the screen, to compute mobile target speed, course and absolute movement along the shipping channel and to forecast expected time of arrival and update all information every second with access to and from the different control points.

VTMS facilities are presently available at Kolkata, Mumbai, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Mormugao and New Mangalore Ports. The installation of VTMS at Kandla Port has been taken up in the Gulf of Kutch, jointly by this Port, Gujarat Maritime Board and the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships. Paradip Port has decided to take up the installation of VTMS during the 10th Plan period considering the level of traffic in the Port and cost involved. The facility of VTMS has not been felt necessary at Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Cochin, Tuticorin and Ennore Ports.

Disinvestment of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.

*97. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to sell off Hindustan Antibiotics Limited;

(b) the value of assets of the company; and

(c) the details of the offer of the highest bidder?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) is a company under reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. In March 2002, Government submitted to BIFR that it is agreeable for a change in management of the company and would be